

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
May 16, 2023
9:00 AM**

Traverse County Social Services Department
202 8th Street North, Wheaton MN 56296

The regular meeting for the Traverse County Board of Commissioners/Social Service Board was held at the Traverse County Social Services Department, Wheaton, MN on May 16, 2023. Commission Chair, Kayla Schmidt, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Gail
Chad Metz
Dwight Nelson
Jerrel Olson
Kayla Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA (Routine Actions requiring Board Action):

- Approval of Agenda, Minutes of Previous Meeting, and Donations received from:
 - 1) Ave Maria Ladies Guild - \$45.00
 - 2) Lake Valley Charities - \$39.00

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Gail, and carried unanimously, the agenda, April minutes, and donations were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	04/30/22	04/30/23
Social Services (Workgroups)	78	67
Income Maintenance	704	716
Child Support	70	60
Child Care Assistance - Cases	6	7
Child Care Assistance - Providers	7	7
Totals	865	857

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There are three children using the independent living, 18-21 program; one child in Moorhead Shelter Care, placed by the county attorney and law enforcement; and three children in placement through child protection.

- Total - 7
- Social Services - 6
- Corrections – 1

FISCAL REVIEW: Reviewed and discussed.

- Cash Balance as of 04/30/2019 - \$1,298,261.31
- Cash Balance as of 04/30/2020 - \$1,318,743.32
- Cash Balance as of 04/30/2021 - \$1,441,374.33
- Cash Balance as of 04/30/2022 - \$1,651,609.56
- Cash Balance as of 04/30/2023 - \$1,986,662.54

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. BUDGET:

1. The April 2023 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. Our cash balance is up \$335,052.98 from April of last year. The director noted that our cash balance is down a little from last month; and that is pretty normal, since we haven't gotten our first half of taxes, yet. We are 33% of the way through the year at the end of April. We are at 12% for revenues, and 25% for expenditures. Our spending is pretty close to budget thus far; although our out-of-home placement costs had been low, and will

be increasing. There were two county burials in April, bringing our total for the year to two. Thus far, we have collected \$14,513.74 in estate recoveries. We keep 25% of that total, and the remainder goes to DHS. That is very unpredictable from year to year.

B. DHS UPDATES:

1. The director talked about legislation that is being considered, particularly the following:
 - a. The 48-Hour Rule: This remains a big topic of conversation in the last weeks of the session. The 48-Hour Rule says in statute, that if a person is committed to the Commissioner of Human Services, and they are in a jail, they need to be moved to a state-operated facility within forty-eight hours of the commitment. There are people waiting weeks and months in Minnesota jails. DHS would like to absolve themselves from having to meet it, because they are being sued by several counties who have people sitting in jails who are committed and are waiting for state beds. The director noted that MACSSA, AMC and other entities signed a joint letter opposing this. It appears it will happen, but we are hoping to get some commitment from the state to look at this issue, if it does.
 - b. High Acuity Placement: This has become a large topic of conversation. DHS was directed to survey counties to get a handle on how many kids we have placed out of state, and to look at the continuum of care, overall.
 - c. Medical Assistance Unwind: These dollars for counties (\$36 million state-wide) have been approved, and will be allowed to go back to March of 2023 for expenses. Traverse County received around \$26,000.00, and we will likely spend some on overtime, as well as some technology that will assist us in serving people. The director noted that initially, DHS had said they would auto-renew about 40% - 50% of all MnSure applications. But, they have shelved that, and we are going to have to do a full renewal on all of them. This significantly increases the time and workload.
 - d. Pre-Paid Medical Assistance Plans (PMAP) and County-Based Purchasing (CBP) Potential Changes: There are proposed changes that would get rid of PMAP's altogether, and would have everyone go back to straight medical assistance, with CBP's exempted. There is also language that pulls certain benefits, like prescriptions, out of all PMAP and CBP, and moves it to straight medical assistance. These are unlikely to pass in their current form, but are concerning, even just in terms of setting precedent.

C. TRAVERSE COUNTY UPDATES:

1. The director presented a policy for telehealth with targeted case management visits. In order to bill targeted case management (TCM), the subject has to be seen in person once monthly. We had an exemption to that with the State of Emergency that ends in June. This policy would allow us to continue to use telehealth in limited circumstances, which are laid out in the policy. The board reviewed and discussed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the policy was unanimously approved.
2. The director presented a contract with Brennan Hagen-Kent for Qualified Individual (QI) services. Under the federal Family First law changes, if we have a child who needs a residential level of placement, they first need a QI assessment before they can be placed, and we can collect federal IV-E reimbursement. The reimbursement rate and terms are laid out by DHS in statute, so there is not a lot of room for negotiation. We only pay for this if we need it, and we have not needed it in the past couple of years. The director would recommend having a contract in place, in case we need it. We do not pay unless we use it. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gail, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, the contract was unanimously approved.
3. The director talked with the board about Juneteenth. It was passed as a holiday, but with no effective date listed at this time. It is effective August 1, 2023; therefore, it would not be guaranteed off this year. The director noted that there is no language in the union contract on this going into effect, and what the change will be in Traverse County. As of now, the State of Minnesota has notified us that all systems will be shut down on June 19, 2023, in honor of Juneteenth. The director and county coordinator noted that there is a likelihood that the governor or legislature will add an effective date of June 1, 2023, so it will be in effect this year. If they do not, the staff at human services would like to take that day to do some painting in the lobby area. They will

not have much to do with no state systems online. The board discussed this, and agreed via consensus that it was fine for them to do that, if the legislature didn't make a change and make the holiday effective in 2023.

4. The director explained to the board that Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) had been in contact with the auditor about workers' compensation insurance for out-of-state employees who may be telecommuting. Currently, we have one person who is about 50% telecommuting out of state, and two others who do it periodically. The auditor indicated that MCIT does not cover this, and he wanted to know if the board would be okay with him seeking out additional coverage. The director noted that the person who is 50% was given this option even before the director got here. So, this has been going on for a while, making it difficult for that person to end it. After discussion, there was a consensus from the board that the auditor should seek and attain that coverage, unless it was unduly expensive. If that's the case, then more exact numbers would need to come back to the board.
5. Transportation: The director noted that we continue to have significant transportation issues for people who are on medical assistance and need to get to medical appointments. We are hearing that the termination of a regular Browns Valley to Wheaton route by Rainbow Rider, as well as their determination not to go into South Dakota, have made transportation very hard for the nursing home and others we serve in Browns Valley. The commissioners indicated they had talked about this with Rainbow Rider, and the company is willing to do one run per week if the nursing home can identify a day, and they had not, yet. They also asked why the nursing home isn't using their van to take some people, as they used to do that. Apparently, they do not have adequate staff to do that, since it would require three staff. The director thanked the representatives from the board for bringing this issue up to Rainbow Rider, and indicated that she would have her staff connect with the nursing home and see if we can figure out a day for them.

ADMINISTRATIVE/VENDOR PAYMENTS: Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Olson, the vendor payments were unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Next meeting: June 20, 2023 @ 9:00AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Kayla Schmidt/Board Chair